

chantmen under date of March 25, 1916.

The status of such vessel (armed merchantman) as a warship on the high seas must be determined only upon conclusive evidence of aggressive purpose, in the absence of which it is to be presumed that the vessel has a private and peaceable character and should be so treated by an enemy warship.

In Mr. Lansing's view the American merchantman, though armed and ready to fire at the first sight of a perilsome in the German blockade zone, is a peaceable ship because of the intention only to carry passengers and cargo to their rightful destination. She is sailing from port to port for this purpose. She has not gone to sea to seek out submarines or other craft and her only purpose is to avoid danger and safeguard the lives and property of American citizens.

Put's Ours on German.

This Government, it is explained, is adhering to the principle of international law. The clash can only come through German defiance of these principles, but the danger lies in the fact that German submarine commanders are avowedly defying them and the German Government announced its intention of continuing to do so.

There will be no doubt, however, as to where the responsibility lies, whether it is the armed American merchantman which fires the first shot or the U-boat which fires the first torpedo. The cause in the viewpoint of the United States Government will revert back to Germany's lawless defiance of international law by her indiscriminate U-boat attacks in the barred zone.

The determination of this Government to keep secret all facts concerning the sailing of American armed ships has come as a shock to certain neutral diplomats here who have been in a position to understand Germany's aims. Some of them have believed even in spite of Germany's threats that American ships would have been in a position to understand Germany's aims.

Informed of Defence.

But President Wilson and Secretary Lansing have decided not to take this risk and furthermore not to give Germany an opportunity of avoiding the issue by simply sparing American vessels and continuing the wholesale destruction of all other craft encountered. The American ships are therefore to be part of the general shipping which claims the right to traverse the high seas despite Germany's illegal blockade.

## NAVAL BOARD ASKS AMOSQUITO FLEET

Continued from First Page.

Discussed with motor boat builders at a conference called by Secretary Daniels to meet here Monday.

The Navy Department has designs for several types of chasers, ranging from thirty foot boats up to big, swift craft more than a hundred feet in length.

Naval officers generally have favored the larger boats—a boat 110 feet long, small boat builders have declared that they will not build such a craft.

It has been estimated that the first chasers could be constructed in two months or less and that duplicates could be produced at the rate of thirty to fifty a week thereafter.

On Monday also the major shipbuilding companies will furnish the Secretary with written statements of their capabilities, contracts, plant plans and other data necessary to distribution of the navy building programme under the speeding up requirements recently authorized by Congress.

## PREPARING U. S. FOR 'UNIVERSAL' ARMY

President, Secretary of War and General Staff Convinced It Must Come.

GREAT NEED IS OFFICERS

Government Has 1,000,000 Rifles and Other Material for Emergency.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—President Wilson, in view of the present national danger, believes universal military service has become a necessity and that the sooner the country realizes it the better. Administration leaders, even those who heretofore have opposed the idea, today said the public must be prepared for this and that it was better to begin emphasizing the idea now than to wait until an actual emergency confronted the nation.

Secretary Baker and General Staff officers of the United States army are not in accord as to the immediate necessity of paying the way for this step. The question of personnel for the army is held to be the most important military problem before the country. The question of material despite the present shortage is giving little concern. It is explained that the country could be so organized in a few months that everything militarily necessary would be forthcoming, but that trained officers and men cannot be turned out of a machine shop and that time enters as an all important factor.

The greatest concern is the shortage of trained officers. It is estimated that it would take more than a year to train men and where suitable officers are to come from will be the greatest problem unless measures are taken at once to solve it. The serious turn which the arming of American merchantmen has given to the situation has centered attention on the fact that the American Government is weaker than Germany.

'Full Speed Ahead' Order Needed.

In the matter of material the present situation is very unsatisfactory, but the Government could correct this by having Congress loosen the purse strings and directed the War Department to the Mexican border depleted even the supplies of clothing, shoes and other equipment which the War Department had set aside for the regular.

One Million Rifles Are Ready.

In the matter of rifles the army has approximately 1,000,000 Springfield and anticipates no difficulty here. This question, however, is really short of rifles, demonstrates that the material can be provided much more speedily than the personnel to use it.

The War Department recently contracted for approximately 10,000,000 worth of machine guns of the heavy type. The military value of the machine gun has been demonstrated in striking fashion by the German forces in the present war, and one of the first moves the army will sanction will be the expenditure of a large sum for additional supplies. At present there are about four machine guns to a regiment. This is independent of the recent contracts, but is widely short of the machine gun which has been demonstrated in striking fashion by the German forces in the present war, and one of the first moves the army will sanction will be the expenditure of a large sum for additional supplies.

Contract for 46 Howitzers.

The War Department has placed orders for forty-six 8.5 inch field howitzers of a type said to equal the 11 inch guns of similar design in use abroad.

The Bethlehem Steel Company will furnish twenty-six and the Midvale Company twenty. They are to be drawn by motor tractors. Department commanders have been ordered by the War Department to report what point under their jurisdiction should be provided with anti-aircraft guns under the authorization of purchase of \$10 for contin-

tal use, eight for the canal zone and seventeen for the insular possessions.

Aside from the preparatory measures in a limited way which the army has been able to carry out there has been valuable theoretical work done toward preparing the country for the national emergency. This includes all work of the Council of National Defense, the cooperation of the railroads, war supply manufacture and other plans so far on paper.

In addition the General Staff has worked out a comprehensive plan to put the country on a real war footing whenever the signal comes to do so. It is regarded as certain that universal training will then come with a rush, but in order to pave the way the War Department believes the idea should be understood and appreciated by the public now.

The universal training plan submitted to Congress would bring into being an army of 500,000 men a year by calling to the colors the able bodied citizens in their nineteenth year. Another 500,000 could be provided by extending the age limit to 30 and so on. The extent of the enlistments would depend. It is said on the General Staff plans, which might have to be amended to meet an increasingly serious situation.

## RUSSIANS ATTACK ON RUMANIAN LINE

Striving to Retake Carpathian Summits Recently Seized by Teutons.

LONDON, March 10.—Russian troops are still close attacking the Germans in the hope of recapturing the Carpathian summits northwest of Oena on the Rumanian front which the Germans took on Thursday. The Russian statement announces later captures of material in this attack, but says the total of prisoners is 291 men, whereas the capture of 600 was announced yesterday. The official statement follows:

German—There was no fighting of importance on the eastern front yesterday. The number of prisoners taken by the storming of Magyars (in the Moldavian frontier) reached thirteen officers and 291 men. We captured seventeen machine guns and five miles of barbed wire.

German naval planes on March 6 attacked port establishments and Russian positions near Sulina (on the Sulina estuary of the Danube in northern Dobruja). Numerous bombs were dropped successfully. All the airplanes returned unharmed, notwithstanding the enemy's defensive fire.

Russian—Northwest of Oena we are counter attacking with the object of recapturing the heights lost by us on the 2nd of March. Our troops are attacking and are proceeding on the remainder of the front.

HAD WIRELESS OUTFIT.

Code Messages Also Found in Wax's Possession.

Max Hans Ludwig Wax, whose arrest Friday night on charges of espionage, was found to have in his possession a code book out of \$2,000 resulted in the discovery that his marvelous machine was a brain based on the National Guard mobilization. Quarter-master General Shreve has called on departmental commanders for an inventory of various reserve stores in order that he may ascertain what is lacking.

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Commissioner Scull said later that Gupta had been invited down and was questioned in connection with the case of Dr. Chandra Chakrabarty and Dr. Ernest Sekuna. Up to a late hour last night, however, none of the three persons had been arrested.

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## MORE MEN SOUGHT IN SEDITION PLOT

Bengalese Goes to Jail While Cancelled Checks Are Being Investigated.

AMERICANS INVOLVED

Rumor That Several Citizens Were Party to Rising Fomented by Germany.

There were rumors of another arrest in the India revolution plot last night because of the activities at Police Headquarters. Deputy Police Commissioner Scull appeared there shortly after dinner and remained there in consultation with detectives. Capt. Thomas J. Tunney of the bomb squad, one of whose specialties is German propaganda, also was on hand.

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desk lieutenant he was told there was no charge against the Bengalese, but finally telephoned the Department of Justice, which requested the police to hold Chakrabarty on a charge of conspiracy in a fraudulent passport case. Accordingly, he was ordered to a cell.

The investigations now being made by the various branches of the Federal Government show that a number of Americans have been in sympathetic cooperation with Germans and representatives of the German Government. While they may have committed no crime up to the present time, yet with the outbreak of war between this country and Germany their position will be most delicate. Should any of them continue their work after that time they put themselves in the position of aiding an enemy.

## BRITISH TAKE IRLES AND MANY GERMANS

Continued from First Page.

of our trenches near Laucourt and south of Crap-au-Mesnil. They were defeated in hand to hand fighting. Twelve prisoners remained in our hands.

East of Rheims our raiding detachments fought back fourteen men from the hostile lines. In the western Champagne, on both sides of Proennes, Russians led by French officers advanced against our position. The detachments which entered in some places were driven off by a counter attack.

Farm, which had several times changed hands, new engagements developed which led to no important change in the situation. Fifty-five prisoners were retained there.

On the west bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) a French advance upon Cherpy Wood was without result. Part of the Meuse our storming detachments entered Carrières Wood and returned with six officers, men and two machine guns. The remainder of the French trench garrison escaped by hasty flight. Near Fliry, between the Meuse and the Moselle, an enterprise by a storming detachment also had the success planned. In this instance fifteen prisoners were brought in.

Our armor shot down six hostile airplanes and two captive balloons. Our defensive fire one hostile machine was brought down. Lieut. Baron von Ruchthoven was victor for the twenty-fifth time in an air engagement.

Trenches Destroyed.

The French statement issued this afternoon follows:

South of the Aisne yesterday we made several attacks which enabled us to inflict losses on the enemy and take prisoners. East of Arrancourt our detachments penetrated into the third German trench, which was completely destroyed by our fire. North-east of Soissons, near Crouy, in the country of an expedition into the German lines we took half a score of prisoners. Two attacks on our small posts in the vicinity of Rheims were repulsed.

In the Champagne the night was marked by violent fighting at certain points. On the front between Ruitte and Chateau de Meuse the Germans made several attempts to recapture the trenches we had taken. In the left of this sector, after alternate advances and retreats, we finally ejected the enemy and made progress. On the right of this sector German attacks were broken off by our fire and we maintained all our positions.

On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the Germans made a new attack on the trenches taken by us north of Courtesies Wood. Our counter attacks at once forced back the enemy from certain trench elements which he had succeeded in penetrating. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front.

German Crew Gullies.

FLORENCE, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers of the German steamship Liebenfels, sunk in Charleston harbor the night of January 31, to-day were sentenced to a year in the Atlanta Federal penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$500 each. They were convicted of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream in violation of the laws.

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## MEXICO'S POLICY IS TO STAY NEUTRAL

Ambassador Fletcher Has Discussed Situation With Carranza and Others.

MEXICO CITY, March 10.—Henry P. Fletcher, the new American Ambassador, during his recent trip with de facto officials, has had opportunity to discuss matters not only with them but also with Gen. Carranza. The Ambassador, it is understood, is satisfied that the de facto Government's policy of neutrality will remain unchanged. His impressions, it is said, have been forwarded to Washington.

Mexico's policy, it is believed here, will not be altered no matter what position the United States may be forced to take, as the Carranza Government still adheres to its announcement of neutrality made at the time diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States were severed.

It appears to be understood clearly here that while Foreign Minister Zimmermann's instructions were received by the Carranza Government, still adhering to its announcement of neutrality made at the time diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States were severed.

Zimmermann's proposal is not taken seriously here. Reports that many German subjects are coming to Mexico have been received here, but hardly any Teutons have come to Mexico city.

600 Villistas Surrender.

JUAREZ, Mexico, March 10.—Six hundred Villista rebels in the command of Pablo Salinas, Idoro Lopez and Julio Avina surrendered to de facto troops at Santa Clara, twenty-five miles north of Torreon, yesterday, according to a message received here to-day. The rebels asked for amnesty, which it is expected will be granted to all but Avina, who got amnesty from Gen. Carranza and later joined Villa, it was said.

Gen. Francisco Murguia, commander of the northeastern military zone, left the railroad to-day